By the King.

¶ A Proclamation commanding Noblemen Knights and Gentlemen of qualitie, to repaire to their Manſion houſes in the Countrey, to attend their ſeruices, and keepe hoſpitality, according to the ancient and laudable cuſtome of ENGLAND

HIS moſt Excellent Maieſtie, taking into His Royall conſideration, that the celebration of the feaſt of Chriſtmaſſe approacheth, and how needfull it is (eſpecially in this time of ſcarcity and dearth) to reuiue the ancient and laudable cuſtome of this Realme, by houſe-keeping and hoſpitality, which in all parts of this Realme is exceedingly decayed, by the too frequent reſort and ordinary reſidence of Lords Spirituall and Temporall, Knights, and Gentlemen of quality, vnto Cities and Townes, and chiefly into, or neere about the Cities of London and Weſtminſter; and willing to prouide remedy, aſwell for that, as ſundry other inconueniences, which of neceſſity muſt enſue, by the abſence of thoſe out of their Countreys, vpon whoſe care, a great and principall part of the ſubordinate gouernment of this Realme doth depend: Doeth heereby ſtrictly charge and command, aſwell all his Lords Spirituall and Temporall (except ſuch as are of His Priuie Counſell, or beare office about the Perſon or Court of Himſelfe, or of His moſt dearely beloued Sonne the Prince) and likewiſe all deputy Lieutenants, and Iuſtices of Peace, and other Gentlemen of quality, which haue Manſion houſes in the Countrey, wherein they and their families haue vſually dwelt and aboade; That they, and euery of them, immediatly vpon the end of this preſent month of Nouember, depart from the Cities of London and Weſtminſter, and other Cities and places with their families and ſeruants, vnto their ſeuerall Countries, to attend their ſeruice there, and keepe hoſpitality, as appertayneth to their degree and calling, vpon paine, not only of His Maieſties heauy indignation and diſpleaſure, and diſablement to hold any ſuch places of ſeruice or truſt, vnder His Maieſtie; but alſo of ſuch further cenſure and puniſhment, as may be inflicted vpon them, for ſuch their diſobedience and contempt, or neglect of this His Royall commandement; whereof, as His Maieſtie intendeth to take a ſtrict and ſeuere accompt, ſo he doth heereby require and command, aſwell the Lords and others of His Priuie Counſell, as all other His Officers and Miniſters, whom it ſhall any way concerne, to take order that all ſuch as ſhall offend, may receiue condigne puniſhment, without toleration or conniuence.

Giuen at the Court at Newmarket, the twentieth day of Nouember, in the twentieth yeere of Our Reigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the ſix and fiftieth.

God ſaue the King.

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M. DC. XXII